What is claimed is:

1. An object recognition system comprising:

a light source controller configured to control an illumination level of a light source in response to ambient light;

a camera configured to capture an image of an object illuminated by said light source; and

a computer configured to compare data representative of said image to stored image data.

2. The object recognition system of claim 1, wherein said light source controller is configured to establish a first illumination level for said light source when said ambient light is at a first ambient light level, and a second illumination level for said light source when said ambient light is at a second ambient light level, wherein said first illumination level is higher than said second illumination level, and wherein said first ambient light level is higher than said second ambient light level.

3. The object recognition system of claim 1, wherein said light source controller comprises a light sensor, and wherein said light source controller is configured to control an illumination level of said light source in response to a level of said ambient light imparted on said light sensor.

4. The object recognition system of claim 3, wherein said light source controller comprises a switch and wherein said level of said ambient light imparted on said light sensor controls a state of said switch to control said illumination level of said light source.

5. The object recognition system of claim 4, wherein said controller further comprises at least one relay, and wherein said state of said switch controls a state of said at least one relay to control said illumination level of said light source.

6. The object recognition system of claim 4, wherein said controller further comprises a dimmer, and wherein said state of said switch controls a resistance of said dimmer to control said illumination level of said light source.

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7. The object recognition system of claim 4, wherein said switch comprises a transistor.

8. The object recognition system of claim 1, wherein said object comprises a human face.

9. A method of illuminating an object in a object recognition system, said method comprising:

controlling an illumination level of a light source directed toward said object in response to an ambient light level.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said illumination level of said light source is controlled to achieve a first level when said ambient light level is greater than a predetermined light level.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said illumination level of said light source is controlled to achieve a second level when said ambient light level is less than said predetermined light level.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said first level is greater than said second level.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said object comprises a human face.

14. A method of controlling access of an object to a secure area, said method comprising:

detecting an ambient light level;

setting an illumination level for said object in response to said ambient light level;

illuminating said object at said illumination level;

operating a camera to capture an image of at least a portion of said object;

comparing data representative of said image to stored image data; and

allowing access of said object to said secure area in response to said comparing of said image to said stored image data.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said illumination level is set at a first level when said ambient light level is greater than a predetermined light level.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said illumination level is set at a second level when said ambient light level is less than said predetermined light level.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said first level is greater than said second level.

18. The method of claim 9, wherein said object comprises a human face.